

NYTIMES 11 Nov 66
VOL. CXVI, No. 3

THE 7

McNAMARA HINTS RUSSIA DEPLOYS ANTIMISSILE NET

Administration Will Probably
Urge Poseidon Production,
Pentagon Chief Reports

AIM IS BETTER OFFENSE

New U.S. Submarine Missile
Could Surpass Polaris in
Penetrating Defenses

By ROBERT B. SEMPLER Jr.
Special to The New York Times

JOHNSON CITY, Tex., Nov. 10.—Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara said today there was "considerable evidence" that the Soviet Union was building and deploying an anti-ballistic missile system, probably requiring an increase in the United States' offensive capability.

The Secretary said that the Administration would probably recommend to Congress that the United States begin production and deployment of the Poseidon missile, a large submarine-launched missile with greater power than the Polaris missile to penetrate sophisticated defense systems.

In the past Mr. McNamara has told Congress that the Russians were developing a missile defense system and were expected to deploy it as soon as it was perfected. His statement today suggests that the Johnson Administration believes such deployment is now taking place.

Poseidon Funds Granted

In the defense budget submitted to Congress last January, Mr. McNamara asked, and got, funds to develop the Poseidon missile. He has now recommended to the President deployment of this missile as a counter to the Russian defense system.

Mr. McNamara reported today that no decision had yet been made to deploy—that is, produce and locate at sites in the United States—the controversial Nike-X antimissile missile, on which \$500-million has already been spent for research and development.

Regarding the Poseidon, Mr. McNamara said that development of the missile would require almost \$2-billion in Federal expenditures. He said its deployment would cost "several additional billions."

3d Conference in Week

Among other things, deployment of the Poseidon would mean complete re-engineering of the firing tubes on this country's fleet of Polaris submarines from which the missiles would be launched if necessary.

The Secretary said that this and other "refitting" changes would cost "somewhat in excess" of 60 per cent of the initial cost of the Polaris submarines.

Mr. McNamara flew to the LBJ Ranch this morning to confer with President Johnson on defense and budgetary matters. This afternoon, he addressed newsmen in the front yard of the Johnson home before returning to the capital.

Today marked Mr. McNamara's third extended conference with the President in the last week in preparation for the supplemental military budget requests for the present fiscal

Continued on Page 19, Column 1

McNAMARA HINTS AT DEFENSE PERIL

Continued From Page 1, Col. 1
year and requests for the fiscal year 1968.

On the subject of United States antimissile missiles, Mr. McNamara said he has discussed with Mr. Johnson the "possible deployment of such systems," but had concluded that "it is much too early to make a decision for deployment against the Chinese threat, and we have not arrived at a decision on any other deployment." He did not, however, rule out the future deployment of the Nike X system against Soviet offensive missiles, adding that "we will continue our discussions on this subject for some weeks to come."

On the relationship between the Nike-X system and the Chinese threat, the Secretary said: "The length of time required to deploy such a system is less than the length of time required for the Chinese Communists to develop nuclear weapons that conceivably could threaten this nation. Therefore, it is not timely at this time to make a decision to deploy such a system to defend against the Chinese Communist threat."

Mr. McNamara, cool and relaxed in the warm Texas sun, also assured his listeners that development of an anti-ballistic missile system by the Soviet Union had not removed the United States' capacity to penetrate that country. He declared: "There is absolutely no question about our capability of penetrating the Soviet defenses with both our missiles and our aircraft."

He said "there had been no question about that" during the last 15 years and "there is no question about it now when they are similarly trying to defend against intercontinental ballistic missiles."

In his opening remarks, the Secretary had indicated that the Soviet Union was building a new antimissile system. Newsmen then asked Mr. McNamara whether the Russians were in fact doing so.

"Yes," he replied. "I believe there is considerable evidence that they are."

"Is it an effective system?" asked one questioner.

"We Must Assume"

"I think you would have to ask them," he replied. But he added, "We must assume it is effective."

Asked when the Russians started deploying the system, he said he would "rather not try to approximate the date," but added unequivocally: "They have started such development."

As a result, Mr. McNamara reported, "we recommended, and I believe will present to the Congress, a proposal to produce and deploy" the Poseidon offensive system.

He described the Poseidon as "a new missile for deployment at sea." Initial development work on the missile was begun under the budget for the current fiscal year, 1967. Greatly expanded funds, however, would be required to produce the missile and refit the Polaris submarines to accommodate it.

The Antimissile Issue

McNamara's Call for Improved Offense
May Be Designed to Forestall Pressure

By WILLIAM BEECHER

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 10.—(civilian, agree that the United States must put primary emphasis on assuring that even after absorbing a surprise attack, enough missiles will survive to wipe out the enemy.

As long as the Soviet Union is convinced that the United States retains this capability, the argument goes, it cannot rationally initiate a nuclear war and thereby risk national suicide.

In line with this reasoning, the United States has spent tens of billions of dollars building Minuteman missiles that are protected against attack in concrete and steel silos buried deep underground, and submarine-based Polaris missiles, which are protected against surprise attack by the ocean.

Looking toward the possibility of a Soviet missile defense, the Administration has over the last five years spent more than \$1-billion on a variety of hush-hush devices aimed at penetrating such defenses. Such devices may be installed on both land-based and sea-based missiles; the larger the missile, the more penetration aids it can carry.

Role of Nike-X

While the Defense Secretary did not foreclose a decision to deploy, as well, an American missile defense, called Nike-X, his remarks suggested another postponement of that decision.

In the past, he repeatedly has taken the position that even a widespread Nike-X system, costing upward of \$20-billion, would not prevent the Soviet Union, in an all-out attack, from killing tens of millions of American citizens, and that such a defense against that threat therefore did not seem attractive.

A much cheaper, thinner Nike-X system has been proposed to protect the United States against a smaller, less sophisticated threat that the Chinese may one day pose.

Mr. McNamara has said, however, that since the Chinese Communists are not expected to have a large number of intercontinental ballistic missiles until about 1975, and since the Nike-X system would take only about six or seven years to deploy, a decision may also be deferred in terms of the Chinese threat.

Position Restated

Mr. McNamara repeated the essence of his position vis-à-vis the Chinese today. This suggests no change in the Administration's estimate of China's missile deployment timetable as a result of her recent testing of a medium range, atomic-tipped missile.

Top Defense Department strategists are of mixed opinion about the necessary combination of offensive and defensive systems necessary to insure America's ability to deter a nuclear war or, if deterrence fails, to contend with it and survive.

All planners, military and

As long as the Soviet Union is convinced that the United States retains this capability, the argument goes, it cannot rationally initiate a nuclear war and thereby risk national suicide.

In line with this reasoning, the United States has spent tens of billions of dollars building Minuteman missiles that are protected against attack in concrete and steel silos buried deep underground, and submarine-based Polaris missiles, which are protected against surprise attack by the ocean.

Looking toward the possibility of a Soviet missile defense, the Administration has over the last five years spent more than \$1-billion on a variety of hush-hush devices aimed at penetrating such defenses. Such devices may be installed on both land-based and sea-based missiles; the larger the missile, the more penetration aids it can carry.

Some Would Go Further

Many strategists, including the five members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, would go still further. They would deploy the Nike-X missile defense system to reduce damage in the United States should the unthinkable happen and nuclear war erupt, whether by design or accident.

More than \$2-billion has been spent over the years developing the Nike-X system. It is supposed to work this way: Its long-range radars would pick up enemy missiles many hundreds of miles distant and would guide Nike Zeus missiles to intercept them anywhere from 50 to 400 miles from the United States. If some missiles should slip through this net, they would be attacked by superfast Sprint missiles, which are designed to intercept at lower altitudes.

In preparing his new defense budget, for submission to Congress in January, Mr. McNamara is faced once again with the Nike-X problem. Some officials believe he still feels the time is not right for deployment.

But Congress showed its impatience this year when it appropriated nearly \$168-million more for Nike-X development than the Administration asked.

If Mr. McNamara had waited until Congress found out through its own sources, that the Russians were likely to put in a comprehensive missile defense, a tremendous clamor might have developed for the United States to do likewise.

But, by taking the offensive by announcing Soviet activity and demonstrating Administration resolve to deal with it with better offensive missiles, the steam might be taken out of the drive for meeting defense with a better defense.